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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,129	06/30/2000	Evan F. Wies	IMM1P104	2148

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EXAMINER

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/608,129

Applicant(s)

WIES ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) ✓
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Claims 1-45 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1-9,12-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Mitchell et al [Mitchell 6,349,301 B1].

3. As per claim 1, Mitchell discloses a method for providing a chat interface displayed [chat room, Mitchell col 5 line 50-col 6 line 6, col 12 lines 50-67] by a local computer, the chat interface capable of providing haptic messages [haptic feedback data, Mitchell col 8 line 51-col 9 line 13] to other users in a chat session, the method comprising:

causing a display of said chat interface [chat session, Mitchell col 12 lines 50-67] on a display device [displayed produced, Mitchell col 10 lines 6-26, col 13 lines 1-11] of said local computer [client 226, Mitchell Fig 1];

receiving input data from a user of said local computer to said chat interface, said input data providing an outgoing chat message, wherein said outgoing chat message includes sent force information [force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13];

causing said outgoing chat message to be sent to a remote computer [server, Mitchell col 6 lines 29-37] said remote computer connected to said local host computer via a network [client-server and Internet, Mitchell col 7 lines 37-54] wherein said remote computer outputs a haptic sensation to a user of said remote computer based at least in part on said force information [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13];

receiving an incoming chat message from said remote computer to said chat interface [client-server communications, Internet Mitchell Fig 2, col 7 lines 15-35]; and displaying said incoming chat message on a display device to said user of said local computer [displayed produced, Mitchell col 10 lines 6-26, col 13 lines 1-11].

4. As per claims 18,39 contains the similar limitations set forth of claim 1. Therefore, claims 18,39 are rejected for the similar rationale set forth in claim 1.

5. As per claim 2, Mitchell discloses said remote computer displays a chat interface to said user of said remote computer [chat room, Mitchell col 12 lines 50-67].

6. As per claims 3,21 Mitchell discloses said remote computer outputs said haptic sensation using a haptic feedback interface device coupled to said remote computer [force feedback output devices, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

7. As per claim 4, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message includes received force information, wherein said local computer outputs a haptic sensation to said user of said local computer, said haptic sensation based at least in part on said received force information [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

8. As per claims 5,22 Mitchell discloses said local computer and said remote computer are each coupled to a server machine via said network [client-server communications, Mitchell col 11 lines 1-53].

9. As per claim 6, Mitchell discloses said chat interface includes a plurality of available haptic effects selectable by said user to be sent as said force information [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

10. As per claim 7, Mitchell discloses said force information is associated with sound information, such that said remote computer outputs a sound effect in coordination with said output of said haptic sensation [sense sound produced, Mitchell col 9 lines 14-38].

11. As per claim 8, Mitchell discloses said chat interface allows said user to create a custom haptic sensation to be referenced by said force information sent to said remote computer [haptic feedback data relative to objects, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

12. As per claim 9, Mitchell discloses said chat interface includes a plurality of buttons (or objects), each of said buttons associated with a particular haptic sensation, wherein said user can send said force information causing a particular haptic sensation by selecting said button associated with said particular haptic sensation [haptic feedback data relative to objects, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

13. As per claim 12, Mitchell discloses said force information includes a command (database), said command being recognized by a chat interface on said remote computer to instruct said output of a force sensation to said haptic device coupled to said remote computer [client –server interaction Mitchell col 7 lines 16-36].

14. As per claim 13, Mitchell discloses said force information includes a network address, said address being used by a chat interface on said remote computer as a network location at which to retrieve additional force information required to output a force sensation to said haptic device coupled to said remote computer [name, owner, location Mitchell col 4 lines 63-col 5 lines 2].

15. As per claim 14, Mitchell discloses said network address is an address of a web server storing a library of standard [Internet, col 7 lines 37-54] and customized haptic

sensations which can be output by said haptic device [user change a property of a selected artifact col 9 line 50-col 10 line 5].

16. As per claim 15, Mitchell discloses uploading custom force information to a server at said network address, wherein said uploaded custom force information can be downloaded by said remote computer to output a haptic sensation based on said custom force information [client-server communications, Mitchell col 11 lines 1-53].

17. As per claim 16, Mitchell discloses said force information specifies a particular haptic sensation to be output and includes data characterizing said particular haptic sensation [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

18. As per claim 17, Mitchell discloses said chat interface allows said user of said local computer to type a text command to cause said force information to be sent to said remote computer as inherent feature of chat room.

19. As per claim 19, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message includes received force information, and wherein said haptic sensation is based at least in part on said received force information, and wherein said outgoing chat message includes sent force information [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

20. As per claim 20, Mitchell discloses said local computer displays said chat interface on a display device, and wherein said remote computer displays a remote chat interface to a user of said remote computer, wherein said remote computer outputs a haptic sensation to said user of said remote computer based at least in part on said sent

force information received from said local computer [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

21. As per claims 23,44 Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message includes a network address, said address being recognized by said chat interface running on said local computer as a location at which to retrieve additional force information required to output said haptic sensation to said user of said local computer [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

22. As per claim 24, Mitchell discloses said sent force information specifies a particular haptic sensation to be output and includes data characterizing said particular haptic sensation as inherent feature of haptic feedback data.

23. As per claim 25, Mitchell discloses said server machine includes an Internet Relay Chat (IRC) server, and wherein said chat interface communications with said IRC server using standard IRC protocols as inherent feature of chat session over Internet.

24. As per claim 26, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message is associated with sound information, such that said local computer outputs a sound effect in coordination with said output of said haptic sensation [sense sound produced, Mitchell col 9 lines 14-38].

25. As per claim 27, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message is associated with one or more displayed images, such that said local computer displays said one or more displayed images in coordination with said output of said haptic sensation [avatar, Mitchell col 7 line 55-col 8 line 20].

26. As per claim 28, Mitchell discloses said network address is an address of a web server storing a library of standard and customized haptic sensations which can be output by said haptic device [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

27. As per claim 29, Mitchell discloses uploading custom force information to a server at said network address, wherein said uploaded custom force information can be downloaded by said remote computer to output a haptic sensation based on said custom force information [client local database, Mitchell col 7 lines 15-35].

28. As per claim 30, Mitchell discloses said chat interface allows said user of said local computer to type a text force command to cause said sent force information to be sent to said remote computer as inherent feature of chat session.

29. As per claim 31, Mitchell discloses said text force command is displayed in a chat interface of said remote computer and includes at least one delimiter character for indicating the nature of said text force command as inherent feature of chat session.

30. As per claim 32, Mitchell discloses said text force command is displayed in said chat interface of said remote computer and is includes at least one text character of an emotion as inherent feature of chat session.

31. As per claim 33, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message and said outgoing chat message include data describing text characters for display in said chat interfaces, wherein said sent and received force information is also provided as said data describing text characters as inherent feature of chat session.

32. As per claim 34, Mitchell discloses said input data and said incoming chat message are provided as audio data causing an audio output [sense sound produced, Mitchell col 9 lines 14-38].

33. As per claim 35, Mitchell discloses said input data and said incoming chat message are provided as text characters displayed by a display device as inherent feature of chat session.

34. As per claim 36, Mitchell discloses said incoming chat message is provided as a waveform that represents speech of said user of said remote computer [sense sound produced, Mitchell col 9 lines 14-38].

35. As per claim 37, Mitchell discloses said waveform is analyzed by said local computer, said analysis detecting content in said waveform which is associated with said haptic sensation output by said haptic device [sense sound produced, Mitchell col 9 lines 14-38].

36. As per claim 38, Mitchell discloses said content is indicative of one or more emotions in said chat message, and wherein said haptic sensation is associated with said one or more emotions [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

37. As per claim 40, Mitchell discloses said outgoing chat message includes sent force information and wherein said incoming chat message includes received force information, and wherein said haptic sensation is based at least in part on said received force information received from said remote computer [haptic feedback data, force feedback, Mitchell col 8 line 50-col 9 line 13].

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38. As per claim 41, Mitchell discloses said outgoing and incoming chat messages include data describing text characters as inherent feature of chat session.

39. As per claim 42, Mitchell discloses said sent and received force information is provided as text characters as inherent feature of chat session.

40. As per claim 43, Mitchell discloses said received force information is processed by a background application running on said local computer simultaneously with said chat interface, said background application controlling said outputting of said haptic sensation to said user by said haptic device [avatar, Mitchell col 7 line 55-col 8 line 20].

41. As per claim 45, Mitchell discloses said program instructions further perform a step of uploading custom force information to a server at said network address, wherein said uploaded custom force information can be downloaded by said remote computer to output a haptic sensation based on said custom force information [client local database, Mitchell col 7 lines 15-35].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

42. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mitchell et al [Mitchell 6,349,301 B1].in view of Liles et al [Liles 5,880,731]

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43. As per claim 10, Mitchell did not detail said force information is sent only to a subset of a plurality of users in a chat session, said subset of users selected by said user on said local computer.

It was well-known in the art that the user's monitor will display text message from selected participants or group of participants whom the user wants to interact [Liles col 12 lines 1-51][also see Davis, Kohda, Nolan references]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the technique of user selecting participants or group of participants to receive message in chat session as taught by Liles into the Mitchell's apparatus in order to utilize the haptic feedback data. Doing so would provide the private and security on the chat session.

44. As per claim 11 Mitchell-Liles disclose a plurality of buttons included in said chat interface include a set of whisper buttons, which send said force information to only said subset of users selected by said user on said local computer buttons [Liles col 13 line 34-col 14 line 4].

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45. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thong Vu, whose telephone number is (703)-305-4643.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM- 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell, can be reached at (703) 305-9703.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 or faxed to :

After Final (703) 746-7238

Official: (703) 746-7239

Non-Official (703) 746-7240

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 11,2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Thong Vu
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2142

